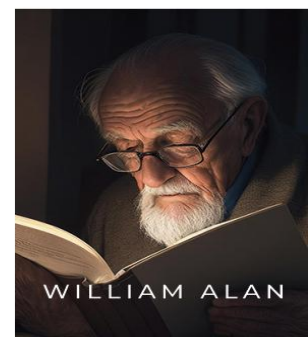
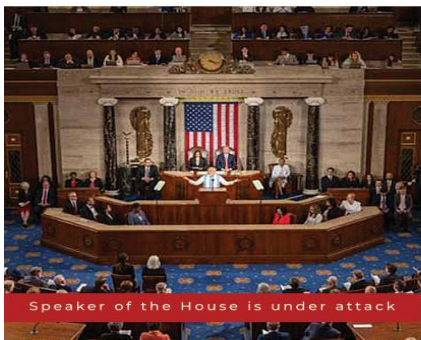
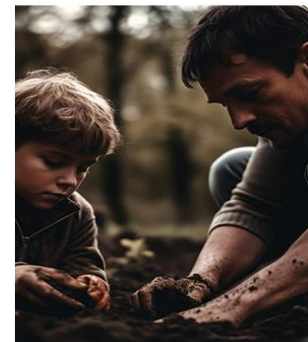




“*SHORTER*” CHRISTIAN HANDBOOK

Quickly learn how to be a Christian
Man with actions showing it



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This publication is meant as a source of information for the reader. It is up to the reader to perform their own research and self-study.

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INTRODUCTION

The “Shorter” Christian Handbook was created to quickly disciple men to be a “Christian Man” with actions. It is purposely brief so you can change your life today. Instead of taking years to read the Bible, you will learn step-by-step 10 characteristics and 7 ways to start changing your life to be a Christian man in just one day.

Start by taking the Initial Test to see where you are at on your Christian journey. Your performance does not matter at this point, but give it your best shot. Next, you will read and complete the short exercises while correcting your answers on the Initial Test. Then, print out this study and create your own “Shorter” Christian Handbook. Start reading your handbook daily until you have the 10 characteristics memorized. The section titled “Time to Shine” will give some tips on what to do next.

Please continue to read the bible. Continue to do your own search to the questions you have. But my takeaway from the journey of finding out what it means to be a Christian is this, “it’s not how much you know, it’s how much you DO.”

Godspeed ><

INITIAL TEST

Please take this simple test to see where you are at on some basics that a Christian Man should know and be doing. The purpose of this exercise is to establish your starting point. Relax; you will learn the answers by going through the following exercises.

This is a “closed book” test. You cannot use any outside help. Either you know the answer, or you do not. Answer the following questions in order. Do not look at or skip to the next question. If you do not know the answer, write a ? mark and move on. Please answer the three qualifiers first before you start your timer:

A – If someone asked you if you are a Christian, what would you say? Yes or No (circle one)

B – Approximately how many years have you been a Christian or going to Church? _____

C – Are you Saved/been led to Christ? Yes or No (circle one)

Your TEST begins now. You have 12 minutes to answer the following:

1. How are you saved/led to Christ?

2. Have you read the entire Bible? Yes or No

3. Do you pray daily and for others? Yes or No

4. What is the first greatest commandment?

5. What is the second greatest commandment?

6. What are the Ten Commandments? Briefly list the operative words.

7. What is the goal of life as a Christian?

8. What does it mean to be a Christian?

9. What do you do outside of Church and your home that shows others you are a Christian?

10. Why are you a Christian?

WHAT IS THE GOAL OF LIFE?

As a Christian, the goal of life on earth is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever! (Answer to Test Question 7)

You will enjoy Him forever because you are saved. As a Christian, you live two lives: the short one on earth and the eternal one in heaven. When your earthly body dies, your soul goes immediately before Jesus and God to be judged. Your works on earth will be put in the fire, and those works that are not worthy will burn up. You will be rewarded accordingly for your good works that survive the fire.

✠ 1 Corinthians 3:11-15, *“For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay, or straw their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person’s work. If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames.”*

God created you for His enjoyment and purpose to use us in heaven. Life on earth is a test so that God can see how He can use you in Heaven. Life on earth is preparation for eternity with God. Life on earth is not meant to be a pleasure cruise and all happiness. Through hard work and struggles, you learn your strengths and weaknesses. If you work and put forth the effort, you will become stronger and more complete. God will then see how to use you in heaven.

Resist the temptation to spend all your free time doing the things of this world. This is a diversion tactic the devil probably likes (1 John 5:19 KJV). For if you spend all of your time doing the things of this world, then you have no time to glorify God. Do not lose sight of your destination in Heaven, where you will enjoy the fruits of your labor forever with God, Jesus, your family, and many legends.

✠ 1 John 5:19 KJV, *“And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.”*

✠ James 1:12, *“blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life, which the Lord promised to those who love him.”*

✠ Proverbs 3:11-12, *“My son do not despise the Lord’s discipline and do not resent his rebuke, because the Lord disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in.”*

✠ James 1:2-4, *“Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”*

✠ Hebrews 12:4-13, God Disciplines His sons

TEN CHARACTERISTICS OF A CHRISTIAN MAN

ONE: You are Saved

Some may know this as being led to Christ. Being saved is knowing your soul will reside in heaven when your body dies. There are different Christian denominations with different beliefs on how you are saved. Some believe it is by doing good deeds. Others believe their soul is saved by baptism. Others believe their salvation is through Jesus Christ, which is written in the Bible and found to be the general consensus. Regardless, you should have all three if you are a Christian. God sent Jesus to forgive your sins and to restore your relationship with God. Below is a prayer in the Exercise you can pray to God to start changing your life:

Exercise: Look up and write down these four Bible verses: Romans 3:23, Romans 10:13, John 3:16, and Acts 3:19. If you are not saved, then consider praying this version of the Sinner's Prayer derived from these verses. "Dear Heavenly Father, I confess that I'm a sinner. I ask for your forgiveness and that you will save me. I believe you sacrificed your son Jesus to forgive my sins. Please come into my heart and change me. From this day forward I repent of my sins and will sin no more."

Exercise: Memorize this prayer so you can use it to lead others to Christ. (Confess, Ask, Believe, Change, Repent).

This type of prayer is commonly known as a "Sinners Prayer." Note that this prayer is not written in the Bible, but this style is used by many pastors. Just because you say, this prayer does not mean your soul will go to Heaven. It is not a magic prayer. But if you believe what you prayed, then your faith will cause Jesus to come into your heart, your sins will be forgiven, your life will change, showing Jesus is in your heart, and when you die, your soul will go to Heaven. (Answer to Test Question 1)

Exercise: What does it mean to be a Christian? It means to be Saved. This is the one thing that many say means to be a Christian. But you also need actions, doing good deeds, overcoming adversity, etc. All the great Bible stories are about people who did these things. They did not sit around and did more than just pray. David did not pray for Goliath to go away.

The flip side is if you are not saved, then your soul will reside in Hell when your body dies:

- ✠ Matthew 13:50, "*and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*"
- ✠ Matthew 25:46, "*Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.*"

Now that you ask God to save and change you, let's learn nine characteristics (actions) of becoming a Christian Man.

TWO: You Love God

The first greatest commandment is to love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind. (Answer to Test Question 4)

In Matthew 22:37-38, “Jesus replied: Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment.”

- ✠ 1 John 5:3-5, *“In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.”*
- ✠ Ecclesiastes 12:13-14, *“...here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.”*
- ✠ Matthew 7:21, “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in Heaven. (so just believing and being baptized doesn’t get you into Heaven?!)

Exercise: Write down or print the 10 Commandments. One way to love God is to keep His Commandments. Include them in your handbook and memorize the keywords. (Answer to Test Question 6)

Exercise: What does it mean to be a Christian? It means to be Saved and to Love God.

THREE: You Love Others

In Matthew 22:39-40 Jesus replied, *“And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”* (Answer to Test Question 5)

- ✠ 1 John 4:11-12, *“Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.”*
- ✠ 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, *“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.”*

Exercise: Replace the words “Love” and “It” with your name by writing it into the verse. Then reread 1 Corinthians 13:4-7.

Exercise: What does it mean to be a Christian? It means to be Saved, to Love God, and to Love Others.

FOUR: You Repent

Stopped sinning. Remember, life on earth is extremely short in comparison to eternal life in Heaven. *“Start where you are, use what you have, do what you can”* ~ Shamgar

✠ 2 Peter 2:4, *“For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them in chains of darkness to be held for judgment.”*

✠ Romans 6:23, *“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

Exercise: What does it mean to be a Christian? It means to be Saved, to Love God, to Love Others, and to Repent.

FIVE: You Pray

Often, the first thing a new believer does is the Sinner’s Prayer. Prayer is very important. Prayer is an intimate conversation with God. It is how you talk to God, praise and thank Him, how you ask for healing, and one way to lift others. Practice praying and pray daily. Over time, you will get better and build confidence.

✠ 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, *“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”*

✠ Ephesians 6:18, *“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.”*

✠ James 5:13, *“Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise.”*

Exercise: Jesus gave us the Lord’s prayer. Write down the Lord’s prayer and make a note of what each verse is referring to.

Exercise: Create a weekly prayer schedule. The schedule can have the actual prayers of the day or just list that for which you are praying. (Answer to Test Question 3)

Here are some ideas:

Monday - pray for our leaders, pastors, teachers, military, police, churches, ministries, etc.

Tuesday - pray for your family.

Wednesday -pray for your friends.

Thursday - pray for others you know.

Friday - pray for your health, finances, etc.

Saturday - thank God for salvation & practice leading someone through the Sinner's Prayer.

Sunday - is God's Day. Give thanks to Him, praise him, count your blessings, etc.

Exercise: What does it mean to be a Christian? It means to be Saved, to Love God, to Love Others, to Repent, & Pray.

SIX: You Read the Bible

It would be very questionable for you to say you are a Christian and have not read the entire Bible. Reading will increase your knowledge and help you relate to what the Pastors are saying in their sermons. You can read through the entire Bible in 1-year by simply reading just 2.5 pages per night, in bed, before you turn the lights out. Start in the New Testament. It is much shorter than the Old Testament. It starts with Jesus, whom all of Christianity depends on. (Answer to Test Question 2)

✠ 2 Timothy 3:16-17, *"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."*

✠ Proverbs 18:15, *"The heart of the discerning acquires knowledge, for the ears of the wise seek it out."*

✠ 2 Peter 3:18, *"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen."*

Exercise: What does it mean to be a Christian? It means to be Saved, to Love God and to Love Others, to Repent, to Pray, and to Read the Bible.

SEVEN: You have a Changed Life

Others should be able to see you are a Christian by your actions. Here are seven action items that can show you are a Christian.

Change how you use your Time – time is your most valuable asset, and you should not waste it just like money. Take a spreadsheet and account for every hour of the week. Then, see how you can reduce doing things of the world that do not bear fruit and tithe a portion of this free time by serving your family, Church, and others. Resist the temptation of using all your free time doing the things of the world. Do you really think your children are going to get a scholarship for playing sports? (See the FREE eBook, "Camouflaged in the Chaos of Life")

✠ Ephesians 5:16, *"Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil."*

- ✠ 1 Corinthians 10:23, *“I have the right to do anything,” you say—but not everything is beneficial. “I have the right to do anything”—but not everything is constructive.”*

Change how you use your Money – the money you earn is made possible by the talents God gave you. The Bible instructs Christians to tithe and save for the future, which is wise. You can also choose to spend your money with businesses that support biblical values.

- ✠ Proverbs 3:9, *“Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops.”*
- ✠ Proverbs 21:20, *“The wise man saves for the future, but the foolish man spends whatever he gets.”*

Change Your Media – whatever you put into your mind, it will become. Be very careful about what music you listen to, what you watch on your flat screen, what you search on the internet, what video games you play, social media, etc. If bad thoughts are put into your mind, then how can you expect good actions to come out?

- ✠ Proverbs 4:23 (TEV), *“Be careful how you think; Whatever your eyes and ears feast on, your body becomes and will do.”*
- ✠ Matthew 6:22-23, *“The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness.”*

Change your Friends?! – assess if your friends are of good company. Are they a bad influence or like iron sharpening iron? The wise man associates with other believers who lift each other up.

- ✠ Proverbs 13:20, *“Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm.”*
- ✠ 1 Corinthians 15:33, *“Do not be misled: Bad company corrupts good character.”*

You serve the Church – the Church is the body of Christ, and serving is in the DNA of a Christian.

- ✠ Ephesians 4:11-12, *“So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.”*
- ✠ Hebrews 10:24-25, *“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”*
- ✠ Galatians 5:13, *“You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.”*

Does Good Deeds – you look for and do good deeds.

- ✠ Matthew 5:16, *“In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”*
- ✠ James 2:24, *“You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone.”*
- ✠ 1 John 3:18, *“let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.”*

You Vote – voting is probably the easiest thing to do and has the biggest impact for little effort. Just vote for the candidates and initiatives that best support what is written in the Bible. Like, “Thou shall not kill.” For example, an earlier president appointed three conservative judges to the Supreme Court, which helped overturn Roe Vs. Wade. Thereby potentially saving millions of unborn babies. No candidate is perfect.

- ✠ Exodus 18:21-22, *“But select capable men from all the people—men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain—and appoint them as officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens. Have them serve as judges for the people at all times...”*
- ✠ Titus 3:1, *“Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good.”*

Exercise: Write down the changes you will make in your life on the seven items above. Then, start implementing the easy changes first. Gradually moving on to the difficult changes.

Exercise: What does it mean to be a Christian? It means to be Saved, to Love God and to Love Others, to Repent, to Pray, to Read the Bible, and have a Changed Life.

EIGHT: You share the Gospel

In the Book of Mark, Jesus said to his disciples when he appeared to them after his resurrection.

- ✠ Mark 16:15-16, *“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.”*
- ✠ Matthew 13:3-9, *“Then he (Jesus) told them many things in parables, saying: “A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no roots. Other seeds fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still, other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty, or thirty times what was sown. Whoever has ears, let them hear.”*

Gospel = Good News. And the Good News is God loves you. So much so that he sacrificed his perfect Son so you can have eternal life in Heaven. This applies to everyone and especially to us who have sins haunting and holding us back. That is what makes the gospel truly good news. You get a “do-over,” a fresh start, a new beginning! So you can move on and start living right, doing good, bringing glory to God. The way He created you to be.

But how can this be true? Just look at the lineage of Jesus, and you will see a murderer (Moses), an adulterer (David), and a prostitute (Rahab). God saved and used them to do good. Share this Good News with those around you, but do not be discouraged if, the message is not received by them. Just like the seed in the soil written in The Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13), the seed is the Good News, and the soil is the heart and mind of the person you are sharing the Good News with. Sometimes, the seed lands in good soil and makes sense, but to others, it may not make any sense. Or the seed sprouts later. Regardless, your role is to share the Good News.

After you share the Good News, offer them the following: If you want this free gift, I would like to lead you in prayer so your soul will be saved. How does that sound? Great! Let's bow our heads, close our eyes, and repeat after me. Then refer them to this website www.shorterchristianhandbook.com

Exercise: Memorize the Sinner's Prayer above in Characteristic ONE, page 6 (confess, ask, believe, change, repent)

Exercise: What does it mean to be a Christian? It means to be Saved, to Love God, to Love Others, to Repent, to Pray, to Read the Bible, have a Changed Life, and Share the Gospel.

NINE: You Love your Wife

God provided you with a helper while on earth with the same goal: to bring glory to Him. Give her the love and attention she deserves and needs. The Christian Man schedules time to spend with his wife. His priority is God, his wife, and then his children.

✠ Ephesians 5:25, *"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her."*

✠ Colossians 3:19, *"Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them."*

Exercise: What does it mean to be a Christian Man? It means to be Saved, to Love God, to Love Others, to Repent, to Pray, to Read the Bible, have a Changed Life, to Share the Gospel, and Love your Wife.

TEN: You Love your Children

The #1 thing a Christian Man must teach his children is to be Saved. That way, you and your wife will enjoy them forever in heaven. You must prepare your children for the journey into heaven. Teach them while you have their attention before they stop listening to you (around the beginning of Middle School). Schedule time with your children, but after God and your wife.

✠ Ephesians 6:4, *"Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord."*

✠ Deuteronomy 6:6-7, *"These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."*

✠ Proverbs 22:6, “*Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.*” (so, what should you teach your children? A possible future writing)

Exercise: What does it mean to be a Christian Man? It means to be Saved, to Love God, to Love Others, to Repent, to Pray, to Read the Bible, to have a Changed Life, to Share the Gospel, Love your Wife, and Love your Children. (Answer to Test Question 8)

TIME TO SHINE

There are many things that can be learned from “What it means to be a Christian Man?” But by focusing on a few items, you quickly build your confidence and can make an impact today. Eventually, you will be known as the “Spiritual Leader” of your house. There’s no time for excuses or waiting for perfect conditions. The time to act is now! “Start where you are, use what you have, do what you can.” Here are some suggestions to pray, think about, and then do:

- ✓ Start reading your Handbook. Do all the exercises, memorize the ten characteristics of a Christian Man, and identify the changes you will make. Start with the easy items first. If you have not done the Sinner’s Prayer, then do it now. Talk to your wife and confess that you have been doing things wrong, and tell her you want to do better. Let her know your intentions. Don’t leave her behind; bring her with you, along with your children. (But they will have to see you change first before they want to follow you).

Go to Characteristic Seven, Changed Life, and get after all the items. Do the easy ones first, like changing your media today. Start listening to sermons daily from conservative pastors who have a national presence. These Hall of Fame pastors will help you understand the Bible better. If you listen to 2 sermons a day on your commute, that works out to 10 years of sermons in one year compared to hearing just one sermon per week. This will accelerate your knowledge. Next, evaluate how you use your time, see what is not bearing fruit, and start eliminating it. Then replace with items that are most important. God, wife, children, and serving. Start spending your money at places that best support biblical values. Reduce your spending, and increase your tithing and savings, register, and start voting.

This Handbook is NOT an A-Z study on “How to be a Christian.” Increasing your biblical knowledge is your responsibility and a lifelong process. This Handbook is written with short step-by-step instructions to change your life immediately. It will equip you so you can bear fruit and glorify God now. Remember, it’s not how much you know, it’s how much you DO!

Ready yourself.....brace for impact.....

(leader) **WHAT TIME IS IT?**

(group) **TIME TO SHINE!**

(leader) **WHAT TIME IS IT?!**

(group) **Oorah God! Oorah Jesus!**

S H O R T E R

CHRISTIAN HANDBOOK

This book is a comprehensive guide for Christians - the right way to help you live a fulfilled life. From the initial test that sets the tone, to the profound question of life's ultimate purpose, this book unfolds as a guide for individuals seeking a deeper connection with their faith. As a Christian aiming to find your way through your life, connecting on a deeper level with your faith, you will find this book to be a rewarding read for you. With actionable tips to help you walk on the right path, you will find yourself enlightened with this practical read!